

March 13, 2007

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 13, 2007

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

Robert S. Herbert, Interim City Manager
Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	ABSENT (arrived at 5:40 PM)
Councilor Bailey	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

**WORK SESSION - TO DISCUSS REVITALIZATION TAX CREDITS FOR HOME REPAIRS/
TAX RELIEF PROGRAM**

TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

City Manager Herbert introduced Commissioner of the Revenue Debra Reason who made a brief presentation regarding the Tax Relief Program. She provided a handout (filed in the City Clerk's Office) comparing Hopewell's program to those in the Counties of Prince George, Chesterfield, Prince Edward, and the City of Fredericksburg. She also explained Hopewell's Application for Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Disabled, and provided copies of Ordinance No. 2004-20, Tax Relief for the Aged; and, Ordinance No. 2004-21, Tax Relief for the Disabled. Said ordinances provide prorated exemptions under Virginia Code Section 58.1-3215.

After discussion, Ms. Reason was tasked by City Council to run figures and report back to Council the effect of raising the total combined income from the present (not exceeding) \$29,000 to \$40,000. The report should provide how much it would cost the City for 50%, 100%, etc. Ms. Reason emphasized that she cannot know how many more people that will bring into her office. The \$10,000.00 comes from State Code 3211. The \$4,000 limitation is for relatives in the home. The age is 65 or older. Council requested she use the \$10,000 deduction. The combined income would be \$40,000. At the \$100,000 and \$40,000, determine the percentage of Hopewell's population who are elderly and disabled. In addition, determine the amount of relief the City granted for the past three years. Hopewell should align itself more with the surrounding localities.

TAX ABATEMENT – Rehabilitated/Renovated Structures

Finance Director, Elesteen Hager, gave a brief presentation on the Rehabilitation Program.

Previous Program Qualifying Property ➤ Residential-single <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 25+ years old▪ Improve .>25%▪ Sq ft increase <100%▪ Maximum value \$100,000▪ 100% value abatement for 10 yrs	Previous Program Qualifying Property ➤ Residential-multi-family <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 25+ years old▪ Improve > 40%▪ Sq ft increase <50%▪ Maximum value \$500,000▪ No exemption for single to multi-family▪ 100% value abatement for 10 yrs	Previous Program Qualifying Property ➤ Commercial <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enterprise zone location▪ 25+ years old▪ Improve >40%▪ Sq ft increase <100%▪ Maximum value \$500,000▪ 100% value abatement for 10 yrs																											
Previous Program Rules for Abatement <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Make application with Real Estate Assessor▪ Real Estate Assessor determines base value▪ Application effective 2 years▪ Real Estate Assessor determines finished value▪ Exemption runs with land▪ Vacant/total replacement non-qualifying▪ 10 year abatement period▪ No delinquent taxes to qualify▪ Failure to pay taxes, forfeit exemption		Previous Program Results <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 45 properties<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 38 residential• 7 commercial▪ \$2,715,600 improved value▪ \$ 32,587 taxes																											
Sample Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newport News-commercial<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 25+ years▪ Value >60%▪ Sq ft <15%▪ 50% relief on tax value▪ 5 yr relief period	Sample Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manassas-all property types<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 30+ years▪ Value >30%▪ Sq ft <15%▪ Declining % relief on tax Value▪ 10 yr relief period	Sample Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Falls Church-commercial<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 20+ years▪ Value >50%▪ Sq ft <100%▪ Abatement equal to increase▪ 5 yr relief period																											
Sample Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staunton-all property types<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 25+ yrs▪ Value<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Residential >40%<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Sq ft 15%○ Commercial >60%<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Sq ft >0%▪ 7 year relief on tax value		Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Include residential and commercial property types.■ Commercial in enterprise zone “only.”■ Use state minimum limits:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Structure life-15 years▪ Value increase-city option▪ Size increase-city option▪ No maximum																											
Recommendations <table><tr><td></td><td><\$100,000 Value</td><td>>\$100,000 Value</td></tr><tr><td>Year 1</td><td>50%</td><td>100%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 2</td><td>50%</td><td>100%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 3</td><td>40%</td><td>80%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 4</td><td>35%</td><td>70%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 5</td><td>30%</td><td>60%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 6</td><td>20%</td><td>40%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 7</td><td>10%</td><td>20%</td></tr><tr><td>Year 8</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td></tr></table>				<\$100,000 Value	>\$100,000 Value	Year 1	50%	100%	Year 2	50%	100%	Year 3	40%	80%	Year 4	35%	70%	Year 5	30%	60%	Year 6	20%	40%	Year 7	10%	20%	Year 8	0%	0%
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Year 6	20%	40%																											
Year 7	10%	20%																											
Year 8	0%	0%																											

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Hopewell does not have a lot of land. Therefore, it primarily deals with redevelopment of rehabilitated areas. New construction must be in a redevelopment or conservation district established by law. It could be a key ingredient in consideration of the program. The residential portion is for across the City; the commercial portion is for the Enterprise Zone. The conservation area includes B Village, and Second Avenue to Mansion Hills Apartments. When Council adopts the plan, it will break it down into the different areas of the City. It cannot be part of a Historic District. Twenty-first Street probably would qualify; but not for new construction – Commercial Enterprise Zone only. It may be necessary to push out Oaklawn Boulevard. Start at 100% for the first few years. The program was not advertised enough the first time it was implemented. The residential portion is throughout the City. Many property owners were unaware of the program when it was first introduced years ago. Home owners should be encouraged to improve their older properties. Code enforcement should be made stricter; tax relief for improvements; and, promote conservation, redevelopment and rehabilitation.

A second Work Session was scheduled for April 10, 2007 at 5:30 PM. The Work Session concluded at 6:35 PM.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:35 PM **motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to Convene into Closed Session to discuss Personnel, Legal Matters (Bluffs HUD Complaints), and Appointments to Boards and Commissions, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) & (7). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes

OPEN SESSION

At 7:40 PM Council convened into Open Session. Councilors responded to the question: “Were the only matters discussed in the Closed Meeting public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements; and public business matters identified in the motion to convene into Closed Session?” Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

Mayor Taylor opened the regular meeting at 7:41 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey		present
Councilor Harris	-	present

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Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

Prayer was offered by Rev. Gleason Dale, Pastor, Church of God, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes- Minutes Regular Meeting February 27, 2007 and Special Meeting March 2, 2007; Pending List; Information for Council Review: [ARLS minutes 1/16/07; District 19 CSB minutes 1/25/07; School Board minutes 3/8/07; Vision Committee minutes 2/7/07; HRHA meeting rescheduled to 3/19/07; Recreation Commission minutes 2/14/07 & agenda 3/14/07]; Personnel Change Report; Financial Report; Public Hearings Announcements: Set a PH to consider a request to vacate a portion of the ROW known as Lavindale St. between S. 1st Ave. & S. 2nd Ave.; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: NONE; Ordinances on second and final reading: NONE; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: C. Ray Edmonds - Proclamation recognizing him as first African/American elected official in Hopewell; Girl Scouts Week March 11-17, 2007. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

Mayor Taylor and Vice Mayor Pelham presented a proclamation to C. Ray Edmonds as the first African American elected official and first Vice Mayor in the City of Hopewell. Mr. Edmonds thanked Council and staff and wished God's blessing upon them. He quoted Elmo Parr who told him to never make a motion to raise taxes because some fool would always second it.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Campbell Ray Edmonds was born in Hopewell, VA to the late V.B. and Mattie Edmonds, and Graduated from Carter G. Woodson High School; and married the former Louise Smith 53 years ago, and

WHEREAS, he was appointed to the Transportation Safety Board on September 6, 1966 and served four consecutive terms until September 5, 1972; and

WHEREAS, C. Ray Edmonds was the first African/American to be elected to the Hopewell City Council on May 4, 1982, and he served a term extending from July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1986; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Edmonds was elected by his fellow Council members as Vice Mayor for a term extending from July 5, 1984 through June 30, 1986;

WHEREAS, on October 25, 1983 **Councilor Edmonds** was appointed as a member of the Appomattox Basin Industrial Development Corporation (which is now the Virginia's Gateway Region); and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Edmonds was appointed to the Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority in October 2006 to serve for the next four years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the City of Hopewell, do hereby recognize

*Campbell Ray Edmonds
First African/American Elected Official &
First African/American Vice-Mayor
City of Hopewell*

and thus, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Hopewell offer sincere gratitude for your contributions to our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 27th day of February 2007.

/S/Steven R. Taylor, Mayor, City of Hopewell, Virginia

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Mayor Taylor presented a Proclamation in recognition of Girl Scout Week, March 11-17, 2007. Girl Scouts and Brownies from the Troop #3001 at First Christian Church were present to receive the Proclamation. Sharon Neal presented the Mayor with a carton of cookies for City Council and Staff.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Monday, March 12, 2007, marks the 95th anniversary of **Girl Scouts of the USA**, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, throughout its distinguished history, **Girl Scouting** has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence and character; and,

WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, the **Girl Scout** organization thrives for girls in so many settings; and,

WHEREAS, through **Girl Scouting's** unique leadership development program, girls define leadership by making the world a better place by discovering, connecting, and taking action in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, **Girl Scouting** takes an active role in increasing girls' awareness of the opportunities available to them today in math, science, sports, technology, health and fields that can expand their horizons; and,

WHEREAS, more than 3.7 million **Girl Scout** members nationwide will be celebrating 95 years of this American tradition, with nearly 50 million women who grew up participating in **Girl Scouting** and exemplify the impact of this amazing Movement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the City of Hopewell, do hereby applaud the commitment **Girl Scouts** has made to America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 11-17, 2007 as

Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place Week

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in Hopewell and thus, do urge the citizens of Hopewell to support Girl Scouts in their endeavors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 13th day of March 2007.

/s/Steven R. Taylor, Mayor, City of Hopewell, Virginia

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Mayor Taylor and Councilor Cuffey presented a proclamation to Virginia State University in recognition of its 125th Anniversary. Mayor Taylor recognized his sister-in-law Dr. Colleen Taylor, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Physics. He also shared that two of the first students at VSU were from City Point. Two of the aunts and one male relative of the Gilliam family were in the first class. Present to receive the proclamation were Dr. Taylor, Dr. Ben Nowke, Professor and Chair, Industrial Technology and Education; Dr. Serena Reese, Associate Professor, Health, Physical Education and Dance; Rodney G. Butler, Director, Corporate and Government Relations, and Ms. Patrice Gilliam, VSU Alumnus.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Virginia State University (VSU) was founded on March 6, 1882, as the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, making it the first fully state-supported four-year institution of higher learning for Black Americans and one of Virginia's two land-grant institutions; and

WHEREAS, with an enrollment of nearly 5,000, Virginia State University students live and attend classes on a beautiful 236-acre main campus with more than 50 buildings, including 15 dormitories, 16 classroom buildings, and a 416-acre agricultural research facility; and

WHEREAS, the first president of Virginia State University was John Mercer Langston, who became the first African American elected to Congress from Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University's academic programs include the Bridges to Baccalaureate program for students transferring from two-year colleges who want to major in sciences, the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program for students planning to pursue doctoral degrees in their chosen field of study, and the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University offers 47 baccalaureate and master's degree programs within its five schools – the School of Agriculture, School of Business, School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, School of Liberal Arts and Education, and the School of Graduate Studies, Research, and Outreach – a Certificate of Advanced Study may also be earned from each school; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University has a long and rich history and has grown and changed considerably since 1882, and it continues that growth today, enriching individual lives, the surrounding community, and the Commonwealth through excellent teaching and innovative and engaging programs of study.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, hereby proclaim the commendation and congratulations to

*Virginia State University
On the Occasion of its
125th Anniversary*

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 13th day of March, 2007.

/S/Steven R. Taylor, Mayor, City of Hopewell, Virginia

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Wayne Walton, 534 North Avenue, Hopewell, addressed Council in July of 2006 about supporting committees, taking care of people, and taking care of City Council. He felt that his comments were overshadowed at that time by the resignation of the Police Chief. He spoke up for City employees and the volunteers of this city. He has worked with many of them over the past several years. Recently, the City marina has been in the news regarding the debate about M Dock. Councilor Bailey filed an Injunction against two City employees, but it was thrown out of court. He has given her every opportunity to address his concerns. [*Mayor Taylor reminded Mr. Walton to address the chair and not individuals, according to protocol.*] He feels that there has been slander and character assassination against him and Jo Turek. He is here to defend himself and Jo Turek who is always professional and who never has a bad word to say about anyone; she promotes the City and the region. Mr. Walton believes in Hopewell, and asks that everyone treat each other with decency and respect.

Charles Bennett, 632 Cedar Level Road, Hopewell, provided a handout (copy filed in the City Clerk's office) regarding inoperative vehicles. He discussed vehicles with no license plates vs. no stickers; the DMV ruling cannot be challenged. He has nothing personal against the City Attorney, but if he does not quit operating on the stand point that everything is legal unless someone sues the City, there will be problems. There is a difference between public streets and private property. Police can remove cars from public roadways. It is an undo show of police strength to remove vehicles from private property. Policemen are not to be considered City employees; the Police Chief is a City employee. The ordinance (a)(1) says "...shielded or screened from view means covered and hidden from sight with a fitted automobile cover in good repair." In (c) it says "...inoperable vehicle, which is covered with a fitted automobile cover..." The DMV code says they must be covered. The State Code says that a City Ordinance cannot go beyond the State code. The City must dispose of cars by public auction that were towed off a public street. They must be tried in General District Court. The City of Hopewell has been involved in a car theft ring. The City made a mistake and Rev. Bennett is waiting for an apology. The City Attorney should be fired! Rev. Bennett asked Council to authorize someone to write him a letter. Mayor Taylor asked the City Attorney to prepare a document to City Council with a copy to Rev. Bennett. Finally, Rev. Bennett requested a copy of a report by the State Police or the FBI to Hopewell Police regarding the Police investigation. The citizens should be entitled to a copy. Mayor Taylor indicated that there is no report from the FBI yet. City Manager Herbert stated that this is an ongoing investigation and should not be discussed at this time.

Katherine Podlewski, 507 North Second Avenue, Hopewell, said that the City Council should not be making its own decisions. It should listen to the citizens of Hopewell and protect them. Hopewell is historically an industrial town. There are many illnesses here: cancers, M/S, Parkinson's Disease, kidney diseases, lung diseases, and many more. Another coal fire plant is being welcomed by our leaders. There were asbestos leaks, and Freon from the Patrick Copeland school demolition. She asked where the Asbestos Close Out Report is. She asked who will look out for the citizens with all the new development coming into the town. She asked when any question asked by any citizens would be answered.

Kevin Daniels, 559 Liberty Road, Brunswick County, heads the Pony League, spoke on his behalf and that of Eddie Small, 517 Lyons Ave., Colonial Heights, Va. 23834, Virginia USSSA Fastpitch State Director. This past weekend there were 35 teams playing in Hopewell. Over the last four years there have been bathroom problems at the fields. This past weekend the waterline broke at the restroom at Mathis Park. He addressed Council to plead for money to ■ repair the restroom problem; ■ double first

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base; and ■ add clay in the pitchers mound. Mayor Taylor expressed his appreciation for the effort of all involved with the youth of our region; it is invaluable. He invited Mr. Daniels to speak with Jo Turek before he left the meeting to resolve the issues.

Buddy Wagner, 101 South Marion Avenue, Hopewell, has known Wayne Walton since the first grade. He knows what Mr. Walton has done for this City. He knows him to be an honest man. If someone on this Council has insinuated that he made a dishonest statement, they need to prove it or apologize.

PRESENTATIONS FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – CLEAN CITY COMMISSION

Jerry Williams, Chairman of the Clean City Commission, presented the report to Council. The operating concept of the Clean City Commission is to dry up litter at the source through a process of public education, government support, and citizen involvement.

There are currently five active members on the) commission with five vacancies. Jerry Williams (Chairman), Steve Nugent (Vice-Chairman) Tevya Griffin-(Secretary) Department of Development-City Planner, Connie Wilde-Committee Chairperson-Adopt-A-Street/Adopt-A-Spot Program, Debra Rose, commissioner and Marian Smith, commissioner.

The commission selected six residents for the Citizen of the Month and they are as follows: May: Herbert & Elizabeth Denton/807 Smithfield Av./ Ward #5; June: Marshall & Lynd Livesay/3300 Vinton Street/ Ward #4; July: Danny & Debbie Riddle/ 100 S. Mesa/July/ Ward #3; August: James E. Davis/2614 Basset Street/Ward #6; September: James & Estella White/ 1602 Brown Avenue/Ward #1; October: Betty & Bishop Knott/ 500 Cobblestone Drive/ Ward #4.

The commission selected five businesses for the Outstanding Business Award of the month and they are as follows: May: Main Street Plaza/Main & City Point Road/Ward #2; June: Fairfield Inn/Courthouse and Oaklawn/Ward #7; July: Goldschmidt Chemical/914 Randolph Road/Ward #2 August: Denny's/511 Oaklawn Blvd/ Ward #7; Sept.: Ingram & Associates/ Oaklawn Blvd. / Ward #7.

The Clean City Commission concept to dry up litter at the source through a process of public education, government support and citizen involvement will continue to be the goal for 2007 and it is their sincere desire to promote a cleaner and more beautiful community through public awareness and initiative.

Mayor Taylor expressed his appreciation for all the efforts of the Clean City Commission. He also recognized Mrs. Ann Williams in the audience, who serves on the School Board.

REGULAR BUSINESS – 2007 CELEBRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE – CHERYL COLLINS

Cheryl Collins, Chair of the 2007 Celebration Committee, presented Council with copies of a letter to City Manager Steve Herbert dated March 13, 2007. She acknowledged members of the 2007 Celebration Committee: Councilor Christina Bailey, Herbert Bragg-PAC, Chris Calkins-National Park Service, Councilor Greg Cuffey, LuAnn Fortenberry-Director of Tourism, Jeanie Langford, Jane McCullen-Twinning Chair, James Micklem-HHF, Mayor Steve Taylor, Ann Williams-School Board, and Donna Tolliver-Walker-2007 Celebration Committee Coordinator.

On behalf of Hopewell's 2007 Celebration Committee, Cheryl Collins presented the committee's update and discussed the following items:

- Progress of the 2007 Committee and Events including the change in Gala plans and the Car Show,

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- Corporate Sponsorship, and
- City of Hopewell matching grant of \$50,000.

In 2006 members of City Council committed a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$50,000.00 to support the projected \$100,000.00 budget to produce six quality events celebrating America's 400th Anniversary.

Substantial changes have occurred with two of the signature events (1) the Americana Car Show and (2) the Gala, both of which reduced the original budget of \$100,000.00 to \$77,495.00. To date the committee has raised \$27,495.00, matched by the City of Hopewell for a grand total of \$54,990.00. The Committee has decided to combine both events. Plans are still in formulation for a high-end car show with music and a festival at the Beacon at the end of the summer.

Fund raising has been successful, however, prior sponsorship commitments from local businesses totaling \$6,000 (\$12,000 with the match) will no longer be honored. The committee is in a fund raising lull right now and it is time for entertainment and vendor contracts to be signed.

The 2007 Hopewell Celebration Committee respectfully requested that Council release the requirements to match City funds and allocate the remaining \$22,505 of the City's commitment to their budget.

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Vice Mayor Pelham, to change the requirements to match City funds and allocate the remaining \$22,505 of the City's commitment to the 2007 Hopewell Celebration Committee's budget without a match. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – KAUFMAN & CANOLES CONTRACT (DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS)

City Manager Steve Herbert introduced the Kaufman & Canoles Contract issue and Barry Duval, President and CEO, of Kaufman & Canoles, Development Consultants, who was available to answer any questions. Mr. Herbert read into the record the Scope of Services identified in the letter from Mr. DuVal to Mr. Herbert dated March 9, 2007:

Scope of Services

Kaufman & Canoles Consulting LLC ("KCC") will support the development activities taking place within the City with an emphasis upon capitalizing on the expansion of Fort Lee by positioning key sites within Hopewell to be placed into the stream of commerce in the most appropriate and timely manner. We will:

- 1) Work with Administration and the City Council to determine key development projects and manage both solicited and unsolicited development proposal processes for priority sites.

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- 2) Represent the City to key development teams within the region including residential, office, hotel and mixed-use developers.
- 3) Coordinate reaction to proposals for sites identified as Council's top priorities.
- 4) Receive, acknowledge and evaluate development proposals for key sites within Hopewell. Those sites or projects would likely include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Former Patrick Copeland School Site
 - b. The Bluffs Apartments
 - c. City Marina Site
 - d. The Exeter Property
 - e. Property in Vicinity of I-295/Rt.36
 - f. Downtown Redevelopment Sites
- 5) Facilitate the negotiation process with selected developers in coordinated fashion with the City Attorney.
- 6) Coordinate the developer selection process for sites for which Hopewell may solicit proposals following the attached schedule detailing the developer selection process for solicited proposals as necessary.
- 7) Determine how The City of Hopewell can become a more effective partner in Economic Development within the Crater Region and Virginia.

The City of Hopewell is seeking economic development consulting services to focus on real estate development activities within the City. The City desires to enter into an agreement with Kaufman & Canoles for general economic development consulting services focused upon support for real estate development activities within the City. The Economic Development Consulting Agreement is filed in the City Clerk's office.

The contract specified a cost of \$6,000 per month for six months. There is a provision for Council to extend the contract on a 30-day basis after six months. Council comments included verbiage to "*work with administration and City Council*" and provide guidelines and frequency of meeting with Council and open meetings with the public.

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to resolve to authorize the City Manager to execute Kaufman & Canoles Agreement for Economic Development Consulting in the amount of \$6,000 per month for a six-month period. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

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REGULAR BUSINESS – REPORT OF CITY ATTORNEY – LITIGATION UPDATE

City Attorney Wilmot provided a Litigation Update.

- 1) HDC-LLC sued the City over the Exeter property. The City counter sued. A hearing will be in Hopewell Circuit Court on Friday, April 13, 2007.
- 2) Honeywell vs. City re: Machinery & Tools Tax. The suit includes a dispute between the parties over approximately a \$300,000/year difference in taxes assessed versus the amount Honeywell claims is proper. A hearing will be in Hopewell Circuit Court on Friday, March 23, 2007 at 10:00 AM.
- 3) Injunction against the City re: City Marina – Lift Shed and Dock Roofs – Dismissed – The Judge implied that the suit was frivolous and vexatious. Should other such suits be brought against the City, sanctions would be imposed.
- 4) EEOC Suit for Employment Discrimination over Age 40 re: Emergency Services Coordinator position. The City received a complaint by an unsuccessful applicant for the position of Emergency Services Coordinator, alleging age discrimination. The City has filed a response denying any unlawful discrimination.

REGULAR BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No appointments were made.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Bailey thanked those who attended the Town Hall Meeting last week. It was very productive. Citizens were able to get answers to their questions. She would like to schedule a Budget Work Shop where citizens could ask questions.

Councilor Harris raised an issue concerning the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Council, which was reformed in 1994. Each term is two years. City Attorney Wilmot reported that at that time a three-term limit was imposed. The N/W Advisory Council should maintain 15 members. At present there are six vacancies and of the nine members, three are ineligible for reappointment according to the three-term limit.

WAIVE THE RULES

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to Waive Council's Rules & Procedures to consider abolishing the term limits for the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Council. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ADVISORY COUNCIL – LIFTING TERM LIMITS

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Bailey, to resolve to abolish the term limits for the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Council. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS (con't.)

Councilor Harris reported that the Annual Memorial Service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held in the Ashford Civic Plaza on Saturday, April 7, 2007, at 3:00 PM and the general public is invited. A former Lieutenant for Dr. King, the Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, will be the speaker. He recently moved to Chesterfield County from New York where he pastored for several years. He is disabled and in a wheel chair.

Councilor Cuffey commended Councilor Bailey for the Town Hall Meeting and the citizens who participated. He looks forward to the next one. He looks forward to the next Council meeting when the Prescription Drug Program, free to citizens, will be on the agenda. The pharmaceutical companies will bear the cost.

Councilor Sealey stated that during the last six months he has heard from citizens that Council had a lot going on in Hopewell and not all of it was good; that Hopewell could not find a good Police Chief or City Manager. Council is presently interviewing for a City Manager. Our biggest problem will be choosing from among qualified candidates. Council will have an announcement in the near future.

Councilor Emerson enjoyed the ribbon cutting last week for the play, “Wit” at the Beacon Theatre. He and the Mayor attended the Moose Lodge to present a proclamation to the Women of the Moose for “Moose Heart.” He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Herbert’s work as Interim City Manager for the City these past few months; he filled in amazingly well.

Vice Mayor Pelham reported that she attended a meeting with Governor Kaine on transportation at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. The Governor was interested in hearing local concerns about transportation, especially as it related to HB 3202 (the transportation package). Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer provided further details about the legislation, and was available to answer specific questions. A similar meeting was held on Thursday, March 8, 2007 in Roanoke with about 28 local officials in attendance. Vice Mayor Pelham urged citizens to contact their representatives in the General Assembly regarding a bill taking over \$200 million from the General Fund. If that happened, Hopewell would get less State money for fire, police, court services, etc. The Governor is working to make transportation viable throughout the state. In another matter, Vice Mayor Pelham thanked Cheryl Collins for the invitation to “Wit” at the Beacon. It had a good theme. The Town Hall Meeting was productive and successful; she commended Councilor Bailey. Thursday, March 15 is Parent Conference Day in Hopewell Public Schools from 1:00-7:00 PM.

March 13, 2007

Mayor Taylor indicated that it is a privilege of the Mayor to speak to organizations within the City. He did so at two events last week. (1) The Beacon Theatre event. It was his vision of a Cultural Arts Center. There was a nice turn out. Great things are coming together. (2) Women of the Moose last Saturday night and he heard about some of the efforts in the community. Wayne Walton is making a difference in the community; the Williams' are making a difference; and the efforts of the boards and commissions make a difference.

ADJOURN

At 9:06 PM, **motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes

Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk